

REMARKS

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, and 14-23 remain in this case, claims 2, 6 and 13 being cancelled and claims 14-23 being added by this amendment. No new matter is added by this amendment, the claims being amended to conform with US practice and to eliminate multiple dependencies.

More specifically, there were originally four independent claims (1, 2, 5 and 6) and the dependent claims were related to each of the independent claims through multiple dependency. The claims have been split into two families, based on independent claims 1 and 14, with dependent claims now singly dependent upon the two remaining independent claims. The relationship of the newly added claims to the original claims is as follows:

Claim 14 is based on claim 6.

Claims 15 and 16 are based on claims 3 and 4.

Claim 17 is based on those parts of claim 2 which did not appear in claim 6.

Claims 18-23 are based on claims 7-12.

AMENDMENTS TO ABSTRACT

The abstract is amended to better recite the invention as claimed.

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ABSTRACT

A method of preparing a sparkling alcoholic beverage by preparing a base mix, which is subjected to controlled alcohol fermentation, or by preparing a pre-stabilized or non-stabilized, non-bubbly and unfiltered alcohol-containing beverage which is subjected to carbonation. Each of the processes is controlled separately, and the pressure in the air-tight systems is constant, from the moment of fermentation completion or carbonation, throughout storage, transportation and consumption. The device consists of a container (1) with upper (14) and lower (15) end parts. In the center of the upper end part (14) a multifunctional plug head (3) is fixed. The lower open end of the piping (4) is placed closely to the lower end part (15). Inside the piping (4) an interchangeable filter (5) is sealed which is constructed of material with pore sizes up to 100 μm .